



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
Northeast Fisheries Science Center  
166 Water Street  
Woods Hole, MA 02543-1026

August 24, 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR: Northeast Fisheries Observer Program Observers

FROM: David Potter  
Branch Chief, FSB

SUBJECT: Scallop Dredge Gear Characteristics Special Request

Scientists at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science in Gloucester Point, VA have requested the collection of additional scallop dredge gear characteristics data on observed trips as part of a study to examine the effects of twine top modifications that are being used by the scallop fleet. The Northeast Fisheries Observer Program is also interested in the consideration of placing these data fields on the Scallop Dredge Gear Characteristics Log. Therefore, this special request will also serve as a beta-test for the program.

Enclosed you will find a list of complete sampling protocols and data sheets. Please be sure to comment on the time spent obtaining this information as well as any difficulty and/or safety issues you may encounter while trying to obtain this information.

Please submit the enclosed data sheet for all scallop trips you observe from the date of receipt until September 30, 2007.

If you have any questions, please contact Erin Kupcha at [Erin.Kupcha@noaa.gov](mailto:Erin.Kupcha@noaa.gov) or (508) 495-2031 office / (508) 367-8256 mobile.

Thank you.

Attachments:  
Sampling Protocols  
Data Sheets

NEFOP Memo 07-010

## Scallop Dredge Gear Characteristics Special Request – Sampling Protocols

### 1A) # MESHES WIDE

Record the number of meshes for the width of the twine top (runs from one side of the dredge frame to the other side of the dredge frame).

### 1B) # TOP RINGS ON WHICH TWINE TOP HANGS

Record the number of rings that the twine top is hung from. In Figure 1, the yellow ring counts as the top (not side) if the twine top hangs from it.

### 2) # MESHES LONG

Record the number of meshes for the length of the twine top (runs from the dredge frame to the chain bag).

### 3) # ROWS OF RINGS IN APRON

Record the number of the rows of rings in the apron (start counting with the row of rings attached to the bottom of the twine top and stop counting with the row of rings attached to the clubstick).

### 4) # RINGS ALONG SIDE OF TWINE TOP

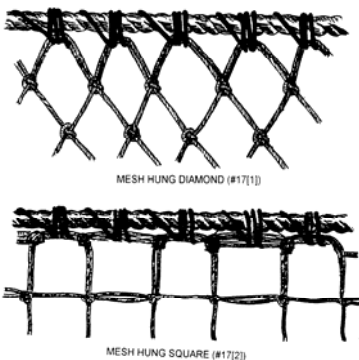
Record the number of rings along the side of the twine top.

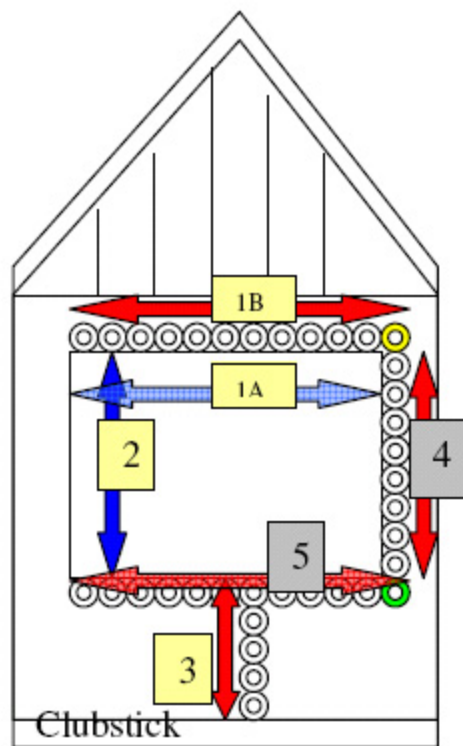
### 5) # RINGS ALONG THE BOTTOM OF TWINE TOP

Record the number of rings along the bottom of the twine top. In Figure 1, the Green ring counts as the bottom (not side) if the twine top ends at it.

### 6) TWINE TOP HANGING CONFIGURATION

Record if the twine top is hung diamond or square.





**Figure 1:** Crude illustration of a scallop dredge. Red arrows indicate ring counts. Blue arrows indicate twine top mesh counts.

## SCALLOP DREDGE GEAR CHARACTERISTICS SPECIAL REQUEST DATA SHEET

# MESHES WIDE \_\_\_\_\_

# TOP RINGS ON WHICH TWINE TOP HANGS \_\_\_\_\_

# MESHES LONG \_\_\_\_\_

# ROWS OF RINGS IN APRON \_\_\_\_\_

# RINGS ALONG SIDE OF TWINE TOP \_\_\_\_\_

# RINGS ALONG THE BOTTOM OF TWINE TOP \_\_\_\_\_

TWINE TOP HANGING CONFIGURATION \_\_\_\_\_ DIAMOND

\_\_\_\_\_ SQUARE

COMMENTS: